

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 7-14, as follows:

In the present invention, by ~~lowering the speed of the movement of~~ reducing an amount of a drive force applied to the cutting blade by the speed reduction part after it transits the center of the optical fiber, [[and]] stopping of the acceleration of the cutting blade after it transits the center of the optical fiber is achieved, thus cleaving of the end surface of the cut optical fiber can be prevented, and the stress on the cutting blade during cutting can be decreased. By making the degree of the reduction change depending on the position of the cutting blade in the direction of a diameter of a cross section of the optical fiber, and by using a speed reduction part which can maintain the speed of movement of the cutting blade almost always constant, these effects can be further increased.